drug price of Pentoxifylline had followed the Chinese prices of Theobromine, and reduced the price steeply;

(b) what are the price levels, alongwith their comparison with Theobromine imports from other sources;

(c) what is the price of Pentoxifylline notified, by Government;

(d) whether Government adhered to the quality aspect of Theobromine and regularity of its supplies;

(e) whether Government have examined the implications of this steep reduction in price;

(0 if so. the details thereof; and

(g) whether Government have any policy to ensure that bulk drug production continues in the country?

THEMINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) to (c) Price fixation/ revision of indigenously produced bulk drugs is done ire accordance with the provisions of -DPCO, 1995, BICP which is an Expert Body of the Government undertakes a cost-cum-technical study on the basis of data available to it, including that furnished by the manufacturers and recommends the price to the Government which is considered and notified in the official Gazette from time to time. While fixing the price of bulk drug Pentoxifylline, it was noted that the main imported raw material viz 'Theobromine' is being imported by M/s Hoechst Marion Roussel at an exorbitant rate from their Principals; while other user have been importing from Italy, Hong Kong and China at much cheaper rates. It is on this basis that price has been determined and recommended by the BICP which was notified for the first time as Rs. 2225/- k.g on. 3.4.96

(d) Imports or indigenous procurement of raw material used for the manufacture of drugs is done by the companies engaged in such activity of manufacture and it is their responsibility to ensure that the material meets the specifications as required by them as also that it meets the standard prescribed by the Drug Controller General of India who clears all such drugs for general usage.

(e) to (f) This is the first time the price of bulk drug Pentoxifylline has been fixed. Stoppage of production by all producers of this drug is not anticipated.

(g) Incentives for bulk drug production are built into the policy. However, another objectives of the policy, namely, esuring adequate availability of medicines at reasonable prices has also to be met.

Import of Technology f*or* Diesel Electric Locomotives

2622. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have entered into a contract with General Mo tors o*f* U.S.A. for transfer of technology manufacture modern diesel electric locomotives;

(b) if so, the main points of the agreement reached;

(c) whether the expert team visited factories in Germany which had agreed to transfer the technology in India for manufacture of electric equipment;

(d) by when the implementation of this contract is likely to take place and what is the total U.S.A. aid.to be provided; and

(e) the details of the transfer of technology agreed upon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and .(e) The main points reached on the agreement are:

(i) The contract will be valid for a period of 10 years.

(ii) The contract would enable Indian Railways to fully assimilate the

technology pertaining to design, manufacture, maintenance and operation of the high HP State-of-Art Diesel Locomotives so as to enable Indian Railways to manufacture them in Diesel Locomotive Works/ Varanasi.

(iii) General Motors would keep Indian Railways constantly informed of all improvements in technology of their product made in the interim period during the currency of the contract.

(iv) General Motors would jointly work with Indian Railways to develop sources in India for manufacture of locomotive components other than those manufactured in Railways workshops so as to establish a 95% level of indigenisation by the end of the contract period. They also undertake the responsibility for establishing a manufacturing facility in India so as to make the electrical equipments available indigenously by March *98.

(v) Indian Railways would pay General Motors a lumpsum amount of US$ 17.5m in four phases spread over 10 years.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The contract with General Motors, USA is under implementation and no US aid has been so far provided for this.

Jute Research under ICAR

2623. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievement made in the field of jute research under ICAR at Barrackpore;

(b) whether the Jute Research Institute, Barrackpore is running smoothly,

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure its smooth running?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The achievements made in the field of jute research by Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres, Barrackpor (ICAR) are given in the statement *{see* below).

(b) There were some problems, reported regarding the Institute, but after assumption of the charge of a regular Director in February, 1996, the Institute has been functioning smoothly

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Statement

Achievements made in the field of Jute research by Central Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres, Barrackpore

1. Varietal improvement and their impact:

Through continuous breeding efforts several high yielding varieties *of* Jute & Allied Fibre crops for different agroclimatic regions have been released for commerical cultivation:

1. Varieties released:

(a) Jute:

(i) Corchorus olitorius
JRO-632, JRO-878, JRO-7835, JRO-524 and JRO-3690

(ii) C. capsularis
JRC 321, JRC 212, JRC 7447 JRC 4444 and Hybrid 'C.

(b) Mesta:

(i) Hibiscus cannabinus (Kenaf)
HC 583.

(ii) H. sabdariffa (Roselle)
HS 4228 and HS 7910.

(c) Ramie: R-67-34

(d) Sisal: Hyrid No. 1

(e) Sunhemp: K-12-Black and K-12-Yellow

Some of the *olitorius* varieties of Jute like JRO 878 JRO-7835 and JRO 524,